
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 314

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HERITAGE PARKS ADVISORY BOARDS.

SUMMARY:

This bill allows the energy and environmental protection (DEEP) commissioner to designate or alter a heritage park without (1) getting approval from the affected municipalities' legislative bodies and (2) appointing a board to advise him on the park's boundaries, name, and theme, as current law requires. The bill also requires the commissioner to create a plan to develop and promote a heritage park without appointing a board to advise him. Under current law, the advisory boards consist of at least 10 members from the municipalities within the proposed park.

The bill also removes an obsolete reference to the State Historic Commission.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Heritage Park Designation

The law requires the DEEP commissioner, in consultation with the economic development commissioner, to develop criteria and guidelines for designating heritage parks consisting of sites in a region linked by a common social, historical, or economic theme. Sites need not be contiguous or owned by the state, but a site's owner must consent to its inclusion in a park before it can be designated.

By law, the DEEP commissioner must hold a public hearing concerning a park's proposed boundaries, name, and theme at least 30 days before making or changing a designation and give newspaper notice of the proposal at least 30 days before the hearing.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/17/2014)